THE FOUNDATION FAITH OF GOD
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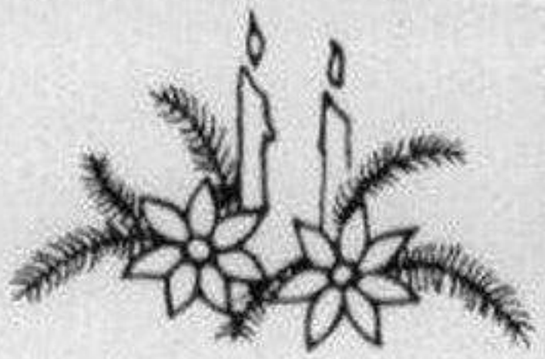
THE LORD'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT· A NEW CENTER

DECEMBER 1980

Dr. J. Gordon Melton
ISAR
Box 1311
Evanston, Ill. 60201

DECEMBER 13TH we move to:
2808 Peachtree Road, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30305
(next to Atlanta Toy Museum)
Tel: (404) 237-6570



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Did some of you, like me, experience Christmas in childhood as a time for a beautiful tree, presents, and eating a great deal? It was wonderful! The tree was beautiful. It was great to give and receive presents. But we kids never really understood what the whole thing was about.

Christmas certainly is a time of giving and receiving, of sharing in joyful fellowship, but that sharing can mean so much more if we know what it is we are sharing. Like the shepherds in Luke's Gospel we have the joy of remembering the Angel of the Lord's words:

"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11

What a wonderful thing we have been given to share with one another! On Christmas Day we can share the knowledge that God gave us the gift of His Holy Son to be our Savior.

May we, with the multitude of the heavenly host, praise God and say,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
Luke 2:14

Charity

Rev. Charity Benedicte

God bless you,

'In just a few weeks we celebrate the most important birthday in the history of the world, and yet what does that really mean to us on a very personal level?

I believe that to most of us God is rather unknowable. How do you know someone, after all, who is omnipotent, omniscient, infinite and eternal!? In Jesus Christ, God in man, we can know God. We can relate to Jesus as a person. Because of Him, God is no longer abstract and unknowable, but intensely real and personal.

God knows that we all live in a very personal world, dominated by the emotions we feel. He knows He can only fairly offer us a choice if we are truly aware of the choice before us. He knows that offering us simply a choice between abstract principles of good and evil is not a real choice for us. But if we see goodness personified, then the choice becomes understandable. Christ's mission is to bring the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven into the human world, so that we can truly choose for God's world of love and life and hope and joy and salvation. As God in man, Jesus shows us the infinite kindness and compassion of God the Father, that God really is love.

In living as close to Christ as we can, we, in our own small way, can also make that choice a real one for others. There are millions who have never truly been offered that choice. Often they are there right within our own immediate family. In this time of families getting together let us give the best Christmas present of all; the kindness and love of Jesus Christ.

"This is my command: Love each other."
John 15:17

Our prayer is that all of you may have a Christmas filled with the joy and the healing love of Christ the King.

Raphael

Rev. Raphael de Peyer, Director

Newsbriefs

NEW CENTER

As our cover tells you, the Lord has answered many many prayers and given us the most wonderful Christmas present, a new center. We extend to all of you our heartfelt thanks for both your prayers and your contributions, which have made this possible through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our January 1981 newsletter will be a special inaugural edition in which we will share both the Lord's blessings, which have brought us to this moment, and our plans for the future. So, for now let us concentrate on the immediate practicalities.

PRAYER, MUSCLE, SKILL & MONEY NEEDED IN THE LORD'S SERVICE!

On moving day, Saturday, December 13th, we welcome everyone who can help in setting up the new center. Muscle and skill required in the Lord's service! Also, to those of you planning to contribute to this great and Godly enterprise: now is the time!! Finally, we ask for your prayer support for the speedy establishment of the new center, and we look forward to seeing many of you there on Sunday, December 14th at 1PM for a special dedication service.

PRISON MINISTRY

The big news at U.S.P Atlanta these days, though as of this writing not finally official, is that within the next few months almost all the American inmates will be transferred out, leaving a skeleton crew of 150 for maintenance purposes, and the place will be used to house those Cubans who came over with the "Freedom Flotilla," and are known to have or suspected of having criminal records. This will certainly greatly effect the work of a number of ministries at U.S.P. Atlanta, including our own "Path of Life" program. This was one of the subjects discussed at a recent and most enjoyable meeting between Rev. John Christopher and the Warden, Rev. Jack Hanberry. Meanwhile we will keep you fully informed of the new directions the Lord guides us to take as a result of these changes.

Many healings take place at the penitentiary through the dedicated work of Chaplain Charles Riggs and the ministries that work there. One such example with which we are very familiar is that of "Pete," a very regular attender at our Monday evening workshop. Pete has come to know the Lord strongly while an inmate and we know that it is because of the changes the Lord has worked in Pete that he was recently blessed with parole.

We praise the Lord, too, for His continued blessings upon our Friday healing prayers at Columbia House, a half-way house for women. The group that meets is 25-30 strong and we receive a tremendous number of requests for ongoing prayers as a result of these meetings.

BIRMINGHAM OUTREACH

It was a great pleasure to see and speak with many friends and supporters on our recent visit, which included the workshop, "Gifts of the Spirit," and our regular healing service. A particular blessing was the opportunity to renew our acquaintance with famed Birmingham newsman, Bill Bolen, and to be interviewed by him for WBRC-TV's "Religion in the News," and to take part in top gospel station WENN-AM's public affairs show with dynamic preacher, Rev. Bailey. This show, "WENN Talk," was broadcast again the following day on WENN-FM.

We very much look forward to seeing many of our Birmingham friends on our next visit on January 10th/11th. For full details of this visit please see our January newsletter.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

As normal at this time of year we shall meet in fellowship at 9PM on Christmas Eve, which will be followed, beginning just before midnight, by a special service to usher in Christmas Day. We hope as many of you as can will join us, and that those who are unable to will be with us in spirit to praise our Lord Jesus Christ.

Testimonies

Christmas celebrates the birth of the Savior, and at the same time it has become the world over a very special time for children. For a change of pace in this column we decided to ask some children, who are very close to us, what Christmas means to them. Here are their answers.

"Christmas is, for me, a time for celebrating the birth of Christ together. I also feel that it is a time for everyone to be especially united under the banner of God, and a time for celebration and happiness together."

Daniel Eaton, 14

"It means Christmas carols like, 'Little Town of Bethelem,' lots of fun, a special celebration that keeps us up late. Christ's birthday."

Matthias Fripp, 9

"It means like Jesus' birthday where we have lots of ceremonies and give presents to each other."

Timothy Feldman, 9

"My point of view about Christmas is that its a celebration for the birth of Christ where we give presents to each other like Jesus gave presents to all His friends and even people He didn't know."

Judah Nasr, 10

"I think its fun, that's all."

Isaac de Peyer, 6

Christ is the Prince of Peace: peace in the world, and peace in the hearts of men. That's an old message — but it surely is one that the world needs to know!

So often the world looks to its human leaders for peace. Presidents and Prime Ministers, politicians and Kings and diplomats and the United Nations; they all talk about peace. But nothing positive is achieved by blaming them if we have war. The message of Jesus the Savior is that peace is a gift from God, which will only happen in full when He has returned and God reigns again on earth. He is indeed coming soon. Praise God!

Rev. John Christopher

Calendar

REGULAR EVENTS

SUNDAY, 1-2PM. THE LORD'S DAY CELEBRATION

Our weekly worship service, including healing, and fellowship.

SUNDAY, 2-5PM. HEALING PRAYERS

A time set aside each week for individual prayer and counseling with a minister. No prior appointment is necessary, but we do recommend that you attend the service beforehand.

MONDAY, 6:30-8:30PM. THE PATH OF LIFE (At the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary)

The implementation of Christ's teachings to the area of inter-personal relationships and communication.

THURSDAY, 12-1PM. BUSINESSMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Please call for location.

THURSDAY, 7:30-8:30PM. THE CIRCLE OF POWER

The weekly prayer group for members of this Fellowship. Non-members also welcome. Prayers for the sick and troubled.

THURSDAY, 8:30-9:30PM. BIBLE STUDY

Each week we look at a particular subject that effects the lives of all of us.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 11AM-5PM

A workshop designed to help you discern the nature of the spirits that may be oppressing, motivating or inspiring a person. With Rev. Raphael de Peyer.

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 11:45PM-1AM

Carols, praise and glory to God to welcome in Christmas Day.

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Your contributions are tax-deductible.

Feedback

FREE LITERATURE

I would like to receive the following free literature.

- ☐ THE SECOND COMING
- ☐ GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- ☐ JESUS LOVES YOU, SATAN HATES YOU
- ☐ THE FOUNDATION FAITH SYMBOL
- ☐ SEVEN SERMONETTES (broadcast on WSB-TV)
- ☐ FAITH, HOPE & HEALING (published in Creative Loafing)
- ☐ SPIRITUAL CONSULTATIONS
- ☐ THE FOUNDATION FAITH - HOW'S, WHY'S & WHERE'S
- ☐ STATEMENT OF FAITH

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

☐ I would like to join your international prayer fellowship. Please send me information.

WORKSHOPS

I am interested in the following workshops. Please contact me with details.

☐ GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

VOLUNTEERS

☐ I would like to help you with your work. Please let me know how I can do this.

FAITH CASSETTES

Please send me the FAITH CASSETTES I have checked below. I enclose my check/money order for $5.50 for each half hour cassette as a donation to your work.

- ☐ THE GIFTS OF HEALING - AN INTRODUCTION
- ☐ YOU ARE A CHANNEL FOR GOD'S HEALING
- ☐ THE GIFT OF FAITH

If you have checked any of the boxes above, please PRINT your name, address and phone number below, cut out this panel and mail it to the address on the front of this newsletter.

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ADDRESS _____

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PHONE _____